

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-13
TRSE-00 L-03 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /059 W
-----231205Z 086526 /16

R 222132Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 408
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT A PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, DR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BALAGUER AGREES TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL VISIT

REFS: A) 76 SANTO DOMINGO 4267, 4435, 4495, B) SANTO DOMINGO 1846

1. PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER, IN A LETTER DATED APRIL 21, HAS AGREED TO A PROPOSAL BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) THAT THE ORGANIZATION VISIT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO LOOK INTO ALLEGATIONS OF MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS.

2. IN A LETTER FROM ITS SECRETARY GENERAL MARTIN ENNALS TO THE PRESIDENT, DATED APRIL 5, AI HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, STATING THAT UNLESS THE ORGANIZATION WERE ALLOWED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IT "COULD NOT BUT GIVE CREDENCE TO THE REPEATED, DETAILED AND CONSISTENT INFORMATION ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS" IN THE COUNTRY. IT ALLEGED THAT GODR HAD REFUSED TO RECEIVE SUCH A MISSION ON TWO PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

3. AI'S LETTER CITED SPECIFICALLY TREATMENT AFFORDED CLAUDIO CAAMANO GRULLON, JORGE PUELLO SORIANO AND ALCIDES ENCARNACION CONCEPCION WHO, ACCORDING TO AI, REQUIRE MEDICAL
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ATTENTION. (AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, CAAMANO WAS ARRESTED IN 1975 FOR AN ARMED INCURSION ATTEMPT WITH TWO OTHER DOMINICAN EXILES AND WAS SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT.) CAAMANO HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A HUNGER STRIKE FOR BETTER TREATMENT. PUELLO, A LEADER OF THE VIOLENCE-PRONE FACTION OF THE MOVIMIENTO POPULAR DOMINICANO (MPD), AND ENCARNACION, A MEMBER OF THE TRINITARIOS, WHICH HAS TWO BANK HOLDUPS TO ITS CREDIT,

HAVE BEEN KEPT IN PRISONS NEAR THE HAITIAN BORDER, AND THEIR FAMILIES ENGAGED IN A HUNGER STRIKE LAST YEAR TO HAVE THEM TRANSFERRED TO LA VICTORIA PRISON IN SANTO DOMINGO (REFTELS A).

4. THE AI LETTER SPECIFICALLY RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE IMPRISONMENT OF INDIVIDUALS IN FACILITIES NEAR THE HAITIAN BORDER. THE POINT WAS PICKED UP BY PRESTIGIOUS DAILY, LISTIN DIARIO, WHICH IN APRIL 19 EDITORIAL (REPORTED REFTEL B) EXPRESSED SUPPORT ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS FOR AI'S POSITION THAT PRISONERS BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CAPITAL BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE WELL RESPECTED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

5. IN HIS LETTER OF REPLY, PRESIDENT BALAGUER SAID THAT CAAMANO "HAD BEEN TREATED IN PRISON WITH GREATEST CONSIDERATION ON EXPRESS RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES", AND THAT HIS REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT HAD BEEN IMMEDIATELY ATTENDED, THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATES FAILING TO NOTE ANY ILLNESS. THE LETTER FURTHER STATES THAT PUELLO AND ENCARNACION AS WELL AS TWO OTHER PRISONERS, PLINIO MATOS MOQUETE (LEADER OF THE 12TH OF JANUARY LIBERATION MOVEMENT WHICH IN 1974 KIDNAPPED PAO BARBARA HUTCHISON TO FORCE HIS RELEASE) AND AUGUSTO ALVAREZ (ANOTHER TRINITARIO LEADER) HAD BEEN KEPT IN FRONTIER PRISONS BECAUSE OF "CONTINUOUS CONTACTS WITH THEIR FOLLOWERS FOR THE PREPARATION OF NEW ACTIONS AGAINST THE LAW" WHILE HELD IN LA VICTORIA. IT GOES ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PRISONERS WERE RETURNED TO THE CAPITAL SEVERAL WEEKS AGO FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

6. BALAGUER STATED THAT IF THESE EXPLANATIONS WERE UNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SATISFACTORY TO AI, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO RECEIVE ONE MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION "INVESTED WITH SUFFICIENT MORAL SOLVENCY AND UNIMPEACHABLE HONESTY" TO VISIT THE PRISONS AND CONFIRM HIS RESPONSES CONCERNING TREATMENT OF THESE PRISONERS.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, AMNESTY, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTO01931
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770428/aaaaaybj.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: SHUM, DR, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN)
To: STATE
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